

Role Description

General information

Title:	Manager Aquatic Animal Health			Classification:	PO4
Division:	Fisheries & Aquaculture	Branch:	Directorate		Business Unit: Aquaculture Unit
Type of Appointment:	Ongoing	Hours of Duty:	37.5	Location :	West Beach

About us

South Australia is internationally recognised for the quality of its agriculture, food, and wine. Our regions are the backbone of our state and the economic powerhouse that drives prosperity for all South Australians.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is a key economic development agency working in partnership with our primary industries, regional stakeholders and across all levels of government to advance the prosperity and sustainability of South Australia's primary industries and regional communities.

We are a passionate team of around 800 people working across metropolitan and regional South Australia to develop and protect our state's regions and food, wine, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, grains, livestock, dairy and horticulture industries.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the role is to deliver specialist aquatic animal health services (technical and regulatory) at a strategic and operational level to PIRSA, the Ministers office and industry as required. Effectiveness in this role requires in-depth knowledge and technical competence in aquatic animal health, relevant legislation (e.g. Aquaculture Act 2001, Livestock Act 1997, Fisheries Management Act 2007), relevant state and national policy.

The role supports delivery of the agency's priorities by enhancing industry productivity, strengthening biosecurity and sustainability, maintaining market access, supporting regional growth, improving resilience to adverse events, driving regulatory excellence, building strong partnerships, and fostering a high-performing, people-focused organisation.

The role contributes to delivering core work for the Fisheries & Aquaculture Division including veterinary medicine regulation, livestock health certification, livestock translocation regulation, disease surveillance, lead fish kill / aquaculture mortality investigations, risk assessments, aquaculture industry biosecurity advice as well as policy and legislative developments.

Key Accountabilities

- Oversee the strategic direction and management of the aquatic animal health program, within the context of a changing environment, competing priorities and a cost recovery framework.
- Ensure the efficient regulation of aquatic animal health, including veterinary medicine use, livestock movement restrictions, mortality reporting and investigations, and disease management.
- Coordinate the work program for the aquatic animal health program
- Provide timely technical and policy advice to the General Manager Aquaculture, Executive Director Fisheries & Aquaculture, Chief Veterinary Officer, Chief Executive (and deputy CE), and the Minister.
- Ensure the provision of up-to-date science based decision making, including the use of risk assessments and identifying and managing key knowledge gaps. This may include influencing research priorities and collaborative projects required to fill key policy and regulatory gaps.
- Ensure South Australia's seafood industry biosecurity interests are represented and advocated for in State and National policy developments and forums to support sustainable industry growth and safeguard trade and market access.

Role Description

Key Deliverables / Results

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the development, review and implementation of regulatory frameworks to support the sustainable growth of aquaculture in South Australia, with a particular focus on aquatic animal health. Livestock translocation applications are assessed against defined disease management criteria to ensure consistency with relevant legislation, policies, regulations, plans and risk assessments in accordance with the Livestock Act 1997, the Aquaculture Act 2001 and / or the Fisheries Management Act 2007. Ensure aquatic veterinary medicine use is appropriately regulated to support fish health, aquaculture productivity and ecological sustainability including effective administration of the Aquaculture Act 2001 and Aquaculture Regulations 2016 Ensure the successful delivery of the annual Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome Surveillance program. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure effective aquatic disease management to support a growing aquaculture sector. This includes establishing protocols, processes and mechanisms to ensure that both government and industry meet their obligations relating to aquatic animal health. This involves disease prevention (including farm biosecurity, health certification requirements), disease preparedness (including disease surveillance, mortality investigations) and emergency response (disease response planning & training). This requires working closely with industry, other PIRSA Divisions (e.g. SARDI, Biosecurity SA) and other Agencies as required. Manage the timely delivery of projects (e.g. PIRSA Corporate Plan, election commitments) Ensures South Australia's aquatic animal health related interests are championed in State and national policy developments, for example through cross agency collaborations and on the Sub Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH). |
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Relationships

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Manager, Aquatic Animal Health reports to the General Manager, Aquaculture. Roles reporting to the Manager, Aquatic Animal Health include the Aquatic Animal Health Officer. The Manager, Aquatic Animal Health is responsible for: Building and maintaining close working relationships with other PIRSA divisions (e.g. Biosecurity SA, SARDI) other Agencies (e.g. EPA), Universities, the seafood industry and other stakeholders on aquatic animal health matters to ensure robust and consistent science-based policy is developed and implemented to manage the risks of disease. Provides advice and support to the General Manager Aquaculture, Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Chief Veterinary Officer, Chief Executive and other relevant managers, as required. Provides input to the decision making processes of the Strategic Management Team - Fisheries and Aquaculture. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works closely with all members of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division as required. Ensure the development and maintenance of linkages with industry and community stakeholders. Communicates aquatic animal health policy direction across the Agency and to stakeholders. Facilitates collaboration with stakeholders in other national and state government departments throughout policy development processes. Ensures the development and maintenance of linkages with key industry and community stakeholders. Represent PIRSA / Fisheries & Aquaculture Division on relevant committees, workgroups and projects as required. |
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Requirements

- Possession of a current driver's licence and willingness to drive.
- Out of hours work and inter / intrastate travel may be required.
- Australian residency or current works permit is required (responsibility of applicant to provide evidence of a current work permit).
- You acknowledge your work, health and safety obligations and our expectations when [applying for a role](#).
- The incumbent will be required to undertake emergency management training and must be willing to participate in emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities required by government agencies.

Qualifications

- Essential: An appropriate degree in veterinary science, marine science, aquaculture or other tertiary qualifications relevant to aquatic animal health.
- Desirable: NIL.

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Capabilities

Capability	Behaviours
Professional & Technical Knowledge Demonstrates in-depth expert knowledge of the aquaculture industry and aquatic animal health.	- Has in depth knowledge and high levels of technical competence in all relevant aspects of the aquaculture industry, aquatic animal health and disease management. Is recognized as knowledgeable in aquaculture and aquatic animal health. - Aware of the major aquatic animal health issues facing the fisheries and aquaculture industry and of significant developments in a range of areas. - Explains technical information accurately and clearly to non-technical people. - Quickly perceives the implications of information and makes strategic judgments based on this.
Planning and Organising (Work Management) Develops and manages efficient work plans for complex projects/activities involving a number of elements/groups.	- Plans and executes, breaking down large tasks into manageable parts. Operates within time, financial and political restraints. - Monitors and reviews progress of activities and revises priorities appropriately. - Sets out roadmap for success within definite time constraints
Communication Practices and consistently models highly developed communication skills adapting style to audience and situation; even in the most difficult situations, consistently leaves other parties with the message that they have been heard and understood	- Quickly adapts language and style to suit the needs of the audience and situation and to achieve the desired results - Objective in turbulent and emotionally charged situations - Delivers clear and confident directives when appropriate
Relationship building and maintaining Generates genuine partnerships, interacts confidently and employs astute perception with strong listening and questioning skills in complex or unfamiliar situations; able to relate to and communicate with people from diverse 'cultures', locations and ages	- Builds positive, genuine relationships in which to create shared frameworks and understandings - Able to quickly and genuinely engage, and be engaging, with a wide range of people, issues and intensities of activity - Present, flexible and responsive to each person/group and situation in a genuine way

HRMS No: M26015		ANZCO Code:		Objective	
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Updated on 31 August 2026



Role Description

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Delegate Approval:	General Manager – Aquaculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture			Date:	21/07/26
Approved and Classified by People and Culture:	Senior HR Business Partner				

Updated on 31 August 2026

